



The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



July 2008 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 3 No. 7

~ 2008 Officers ~

President: - Tom Sly - WB8LCD
Vice President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD
Sec/Treasurer - Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ
3 Year Trustee - Chuck Patellis - K8CMP
2 Year Trustee - Russ Anderson - KB8DPN
1 Year Trustee - Al Atkins - KB8VJL

~ Meetings ~

2nd Monday of every month.
7 pm at Sideliners
Brimfield Plaza
Brimfield, Ohio

~ Nets ~

Thursday nights
8 PM
on 146.895
PL Tones
110.9 Rootstown
114.8 Kent

PCARS Established
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL affiliated
April 20, 2006

From the President

July is certainly the month associated with Patriotism! Think – 4th of July, Declaration of Independence, Red White and Blue, Fireworks, Picnics, Apple Pie, Ham Radio. Ham Radio?? How on earth did I make that leap? Its really not that big a leap, in fact, it makes so much sense that maybe Ham Radio deserves a spot closer to the top of the list, rather than at the end of the list!

Ham Radio could be thought of as Patriotic from the standpoint of all the Public Service that is conducted by hams, both individually and as clubs or units. While there is no mechanism to keep track of the totals, I'd love to see the total number of parades, races and other events that have relied on Ham Radio through the years to provide the communications component of their logistics. I'd like to see the number of individual Ham Radio operators that participated in all of those events. When disasters have struck, how many times, and with how many operators has Ham Radio responded? How often has Ham Radio provided the link home for our military personnel and other volunteer services around the world, and more recently even the astronauts! Even if it were only for these great acts of service, Ham Radio is certainly a Patriotic endeavor.

While Ham Radio will continue to serve our country and its citizens in all of the above mentioned areas, there is a greater service yet that Ham Radio can provide for our country. In fact, it may be the greatest service of all!

As many of you have noticed, not only is America changing in many social areas, its changing both technologically and economically as well. The "Industrial Revolution" is pretty much over. The good, high paying jobs in production are pretty much a thing of the past, as in a world economy they have moved to where they can be done

cheaper. I believe that job growth in the future will come primarily in two areas: very specialized "high tech / high pay" or very menial "low tech / low pay" (as in, mow my lawn, sell me a burger, or clean my bathroom). So, how does Ham Radio enter this picture?

By promoting Ham Radio, and especially by recruiting America's youth into our hobby, we can interest them in the two areas necessary to be employable in the specialized and high-tech fields: Math and Science. I'm guessing the kid who has independently communicated through satellites, understands radio wave propagation, has built his own antennas and maybe even a working radio, is



probably in a better position to understand the math and science necessary to get the "high tech / high pay" job, than the kid who's mastered all the latest Wii games and has the latest scoop on all the rappers and movie stars!

Math and Science are the basic skills that will keep Americans employable in the "high tech / high pay" fields, and ultimately help to keep America as a world leader. Anything we can do to make Math and Science fun and interesting, is being patriotic in the sense that it will ultimately help us to stay at the forefront of development both technologically and economically. We can't loose the edge in these areas, and stay at the top, too. So, get a kid interested in Ham Radio. Not only is it patriotic, it just may be the best thing that ever happened for the kid!

Have a great month, I hope to hear you on the air, and I expect to see you at the PCARS picnic on July 26th.

73,
Tom - WB8LCD

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From the Vice President

Do you have your calendars already marked for June 27th and 28th, 2009? You should because those are the dates for next year's Field Day and we are already starting to make plans for it. Thanks to the Field Day co-chairs, Bill, WB9LBI, and Ed, N8EQJ, this year's PCARS Field Day was bigger and better than before, no matter what the weather was like. Every year we learn new ways to make the event more successful and more FUN and you can count on more of the same for 2009.

Thanks again to Jon Barber, Director of the Portage County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for making the EMA's Mobile Command Center available for Field Day. It made a great public display and a pretty comfortable operating position.



Jon Barber & WB8LCD

Thanks also to Bill, WB9LBI, and Ray, KD8DFL, for their efforts in putting together the TAK-40 radio kits. Although not a club project the kit is a great example of how motivated club members can pull together a terrific project.

We are still looking for input and suggestions from PCARS members for the improvements to be made to the PCARS club station. Send me a note or give me a call if you have any suggestions. The first project will likely be installing and insulating a dropped ceiling in the radio operations room.

We had a good time this month participating in the Portage County Boy Scouts Scout-A-Rama that was held at the former Holiday Sands (now the Ravenna Moose Club) property on State Route 14 east of Ravenna. Band conditions on twenty and forty meters were favorable so we made a number of contacts. It was



KC8PD & Scouts

nice of the hams at the other end of the QSO's to take the time to chat with some of the scouts. Of course a few of those youngsters had to get past their "mic fright" before they could talk.

Another demo that always made a good impression was using Winlink to send text messages to the cell phones of scout leaders and parents who were attending the event. It figures that radio is more likely to get the kids' attention when it combines computers and cell phones, technologies that the scouts are familiar with. It intrigued them to watch the screen as the message was uploaded to a station in Montreal and then forwarded to the Central Message Server in either San Diego or Perth, Australia. Within two minutes a cell phone was ringing with the message.

I hope that everyone found the presentation on NVIS antennas at the June meeting to be informative and that it

got some more PCARS members thinking about participating in the Ohio State Parks On The Air contest on September 6th. The presentation materials and some other information have been uploaded to the PCARS Yahoo group for handy reference.

The next VE session will be on Saturday, August 2nd at 10:00 a.m. at the Center of Hope, located at 1034 West Main Street in Ravenna. VE sessions will continue to be held on the first Saturday of every even-numbered month at that same time and place.

If you know anyone who is interested in becoming a ham, please remind them that PCARS will be offering its Technician course again this Fall at the Maplewood Career Opportunity Center. The first class will be on Tuesday, September 23rd.

Jim, KC8PD

Charlie the Tuner's HF Hi-Lites

This month has been very busy as far as work goes and I simply have not had the enthusiasm to spend any more time in front of a keyboard than is absolutely necessary. Anyway, July is upon us and besides Independence Day celebration, there are a lot of other activities going on, especially on the HAM bands. DX does not stop for holidays, so let's see what you might be hearing this coming month and well as some months ahead.



As always, please note that this report is only as good as the information being passed on by the various DX organizations and newsletters. So there is always the chance that this report can contain some erroneous information due to the simple nature of either bad G-2 or busted call signs. Please adhere to the old adage of "Work First Worry Later" (WFWL).

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, the 425 DX Newsletter, and the ARRL DX Newsletter for the following DX information.

DX

3V, TUNISIA. GM0DHZ/AA8YH, is returning here in mid-November for 5 weeks. He plans to concentrate on the LF bands. He adds that he willing to accept skeds from "QRP" operators/stations, either CW or SSB. Here is a great opportunity for those of us who work QRP to set up a sked

and see if you can reach Tunisia with 5 w CW or 10 w SSB. You can contact him via his E-mail address listed on QRZ.com. WB8LCD – are you paying attention??

5X, UGANDA (Reminder). G3RWF, will once again be active as **5X1NH** this week from June 25th to August 15th. Activity will be from Fort Portal in Western Uganda. QSL via G3RWF. He was active during February and March this year and made 11000 QSOs.

6 METER CARIBBEAN DXPEDITION (Update). K7BV, will be active this summer from the Caribbean but on **6 meters ONLY**. Look for him to sign as **V36M** from **Caye Caulker Island (NA-073, WW Loc. EK57XR)**, **Belize**, from June 20-26th, and as **5J0M** from **San Andres Island (NA-033, WLOTA LH-2990, WW Loc EK92DM)** between June 29th and July 7th. His equipment will be a FT-450 with ACOM-1000 amplifier, running 1KW into a 7 element and 3 element beam. The main frequency will be 50.106.2 MHz USB and /B. The pilot station will be W5OZI. QSL direct only to W1JJ (QRZ.com).

A2, BOTSWANA. DL7DF and a team of operators will be active as A25/DL7DF from Botswana between September 23rd and October 6th. They plan to have several stations on the air on 160-10 meters using CW and SSB. One station will be exclusively dedicated to RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. QSL via DL7DF, direct or by the DARC Bureau.

BT1, CHINA (Special Event Stations Reminder). BD5RV/4, reports that the Chinese Radio Sports Association (CRSA) has announced that five special event stations will be active during the 2008 Beijing Olympics starting May 18th and ending September 17th. Each of the five different call signs will represent one of the 5 Olympic Games ring symbols: BT1OB for Beibei (blue), BT1OJ for Jingjing (black), BT1OH for Huanhuan (red), BT1OY for Yingying (yellow) and BT1ON for Nini (green). Activity will be on 160-10 meters using SSB, CW, and RTTY. The contacts can be used to apply for a "Beijing Olympics Award" which will be available soon. Also, look for operations on SSTV, PSK, the satellites, EME, and possibly other modes. Contacts using these modes will not be valid for the award. The QSL Manager for these special event stations is BA4EG, by the Bureau or direct. QSL cards will be sent out starting October 2008. A Web site is now active with news updates, station setup, logs, award info and QSL status, at: <http://www.bj2008ses.com.cn>

C5, THE GAMBIA. ON7YK, will once again be active as **C56YK** between October 13th and November 9th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters, perhaps also 160m, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. He will only have 100 watts and will use a Spiderbeam for 20/17/15/12/10m and a dipole for 80/40/30 meters. This will be a holiday style operation.

C6, BAHAMAS. (Reminder) W2GJ, K3IXD and W3PP will be active as C6APR from here between July 25-28th. Their activity will include the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 26-27th) as a Multi-Op DXpedition entry. The team will be on Crooked Island (NA-113, LH BAH-005 and Grid FL22tt). Look for

activity outside of the contest on 80-6 meters including 30/17/12 meters, CW, SSB, and RTTY. QSL via K3IXD.

C9, MOZAMBIQUE. K5LBU, informs us that "things are looking up for our DXpedition to Mozambique this July." He states that they will be on the air starting the night of July 16th through the 30th. They will have 2 complete stations; one for CW and one for SSB. Both will have T-8 Log-Periodics thanks to Tenedyne at about 50 feet plus. There will also be a 40 meter 4 square and possibly 80 meter 4 square and 72 foot vertical for 160/80/30 meters. There will also be 6 meters with a M2 6 meter beam. Activity will be on all bands from 160-6 this trip. They will even be trying some EME on 6 meters.

CU3, AZORES. F5LMJ, will be active as CU3/F5LMJ from **Terceira Island (EU-175)** during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 26-27th). QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the REF bureau.

CY0, SABLE ISLAND (Reminder). The 6 meter DXpedition to Sable Island is scheduled to take place this week between June 25th through July 7th. Operators VE3IKV, K5AND and W3CMP (close but no cigar) will be active on CW and SSB. The fixed 6m station (in FN93) will use the callsign CY0X. They will be transmitting on 50.117 MHz. The team requests, "Please do NOT send your grid square as it consumes valuable time during an opening." They will also try to activate rare grid GN03 if there is a solid opening using a portable station with a 5 element M2 6M5X yagi with the callsign CY0RA. The team will also plan on being on HF on 20 meters and 40 meters, CW and SSB - but the HF operation will always take lower priority over the 6 meter operation.

YI, IRAQ - (Reminder) WD6V, is now active as YI9WV possibly until late November (2008) unless he receives an extension. He is currently operating near Fallujah, using a dipole antenna and a low power radio (FT-817) but is expected to receive another rig soon and will be able to run 100 watts. Activity is limited to his free time, mainly on CW and PSK31, but may operate SSB at times and possibly RTTY. All contacts thus far have been with Europe and Russia stations. QSNs show Kitch was heard on 20 meters CW after 1345z. QSL YI9WV via NI5DX.

YU8, KOSOVO. (Reminder) LZ1BJ, is now active from here using the call sign YU8/LZ1BJ. Boyan says that he will be here over the next few months. Activity has begun on 10 meter SSB and 40/20 meters RTTY/PSK. He plans to be on 40/30/20/17/15/12/10 meters using CW, SSB, PSK31 and RTTY. QSL via LZ QSL Bureau.

IOTA News

EU-072. Alonnisos Island. Members of the White Tower DX Team will be active as SX8WT from Alonnisos Island (GIOTA NAS-065, MIA MG-008, also count for WLOTA LH-4091), between August 30th and September 5th.

EU-123. Great Cumbrae. Members of the "Crocodile Rock Amateur Group" (CRAG) will be active as GM5C from Isle of Great Cumbrae during the IOTA Contest (July 26-27th).

EU-135. Ledskar Island. SM5EFX, SM5XZB and SM5XZC will be active as SM5EFX/2 from Ledskar Island for the entire month of July (July 1-31st). Look for sporadic activations during July and participation in the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 26-27th). QSL via SM5EFX.

FK, NEW CALEDONIA - F5NHJ, will be active as FK/F5NHJ from the main island of **Grande Terre (OC-032, DIFO FK-001, WLOTA LH1280)** between August 12-29th. Activity will be mainly on CW and the Digital modes on 30 meters. During his stay, Jean Louis will try to activate one or several other FK islands. More details should be forthcoming. QSL via his instructions because F5NHJ's address is being changed.

J6, ST. LUCIA. WB5ZAM, will once again be active here as J68WI between October 16-30th. No contesting is planned, but activity will be on 30-10 meters as the bands allow, and 6 meters if open. No low bands. QSL via WB5ZAM.

PIRATE ALERT! G3SWH (AD5YS), informs that his good friend Albert, 5R8GZ, tells him the station currently operating as 5R8/TW1GTO is a pirate station without license and is unknown by the Office Malagasy d'Etudes et Telecommunications Regulatory Board (OMERT), the local licensing authority in Madagascar.

That's all for now. As always, there's a lot more that I could include but sometimes the thrill is in finding a rare DX station by surprise. Until next month, this is Charlie the Tuner saying, 73 and gud DX to u.

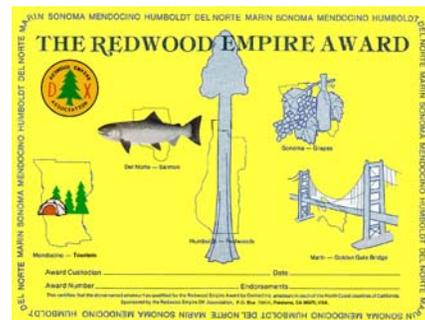
Chuck, K8CMP

Paper Chase

Mark your calendars for the weekend of October 4th and 5th for the California QSO Party. With the improvement in the higher bands recently, you should be able to work California on at least 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. Plus if we would get an opening as in the VHF Party you might even be able to work California on 6 meters. Therefore, you have a wonderful opportunity to earn the "**Redwood Empire Award**".

The Redwood Empire Award is awarded for working at least one amateur in each of the 5 California North Coast counties of: Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino,

Humboldt, and Del Norte. You can make the contact with CW, SSB, AM, FM or any of the digital modes. If



you would like an endorsement for a special mode, you can request it. The award is given by the Redwood Empire DX Association and administered by WW6D. Just send a GCR list and \$2 to: Redwood Empire DX Association, P.O. Box 750531, Petaluma, CA. 94975.

Joe, W8KNO

July Contest Calendar

July 2008

RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint	2300Z, Jul 4 to 0300Z, Jul 5
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Jul 6
FISTS Summer Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Jul 12
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 12 to 1200Z, Jul 13
N. American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 19 to 0600Z, Jul 20
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 19 to 2100Z, Jul 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 21
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 26 to 1200Z, Jul 27

Field Day 2008 Chronicle

Due to tight newsletter deadlines, I've decided to keep a running journal of significant events at Field Day 2008. Please excuse misspellings and typos. All times are given in 24-hour format, local time.

Saturday 1000: Setup crew gathers at Ravenna City Park and is treated to a moving and inspirational speech by Field Day Co-Chairman WB9LBI. Everyone is excited and upbeat.



Saturday 1136: Six hams attending their very first Field Day are given a brush and container of what KB8VJL describes as "solar flux", which purportedly cleans antennas in a manner similar to solder flux and thus increases on-air performance. Five of the hams dutifully apply "solar flux" to Field Day antennas, per Al's instructions.



Saturday 1210: The general mood takes an ugly turn when Robert KD8GWY knocks the pizza boxes over and ruins lunch. He is publicly taken to task by Field Day Co-Chairman WB9LBI for his ox-like maneuverings.



Saturday 1400: The contest is underway! 20 meter station operation off to a late start as N8EQJ and crew attempt to scrub sticky "solar flux" substance from tri-band antenna.



Saturday 1437: An altercation breaks out between Al and Ed over *L'Affaire les Flux*. Field Day Co-Chairman WB9LBI upbraids six hams for wagering on the winner instead of stopping the fight.

Saturday 1619: Thunderstorms force us off the air. Jim KC8PD keeps spirits buoyant by leading everyone in a rousing chorus of the *Viva Viagra* song from the TV commercial of the same name.



Saturday 1830: A looming crisis: Errol KC8RJR discovers that there is insufficient food for the many unexpected dinner guests. Thinking fast, Errol marinates Rich KD8FDK and cooks him on the grill. He was delicious.



Saturday 2142: Chuck K8CMP stumbles into a little-known contesting feature of the ICOM 7000 transceiver, which allows the operator to play video poker on the front panel display when the band gets slow. Chuck proceeds to lose \$762 to the ICOM Corporation.



Saturday 2329: Instead of working the 40-meter SSB position together as scheduled, Bob KD8FLX and Kathy KD8FLW are "conducting an experiment in harmonic coupling" as Bob describes it. Furious, Field Day Co-Chairman WB9LBI orders them back to the radio.

Sunday 0812: After his logger fails to show up, Nick N8WLE gamely tries to run the 40-meter CW position alone, but gets confused and mistakes the handle on the coffee urn for a straight key. He manages to work Montana, British Columbia, and Guam before the coffee runs out. Nick is treated to a public dressing down by Field Day Co-Chairman WB9LBI over wasting expensive coffee.



Sunday 1000: For reasons still unclear, Tom KB8UZZ assures the visiting Mayor of Ravenna that the name of the contest is actually "Ohio Parkys On The Air." Tom

earns a scathing reprimand from Field Day Co-Chairman WB9LBI.

Sunday 1010: Jim N8PXW does the club no favors when he enthusiastically demonstrates his “Printed Circuit Guillotine of Death” to the His Honor, the Mayor.

Sunday 1015: After a live demonstration of Ed’s home brew “Mobile Gallows”, the Mayor abruptly leaves.

Sunday 1330: Due to miscalculation by Dave WB2DFC, the contact through amateur satellite A0-27 Mode B turns out to be commercial satellite Galaxy 10R Transponder 14, and Dave calls “CQ Field Day” all over the audio channel of the Cleveland Indians-Cincinnati Reds game. Field Day Co-Chairman WB9LBI castigates Dave for failing to secure the express written permission of Major League Baseball.



Sunday 1400: Contest ends. Tear-down and recriminations begin.

Bill, WB9LBI

EmComm

An interesting “EmComm And You” column titled “*Meaningful Work vs. Make Work*” written by Jerry Boyd, N7WR, ran in the July 2008 WorldRadio magazine. In the column, Jerry briefly examines the recent evolution of the service side of ham radio into one that assists public agencies more often than it assists the general public.

He notes that during relief efforts in the past the primary role of amateur radio was to move traffic into and out of affected areas on behalf of disaster victims. Today it is more likely that hams will be assisting public services instead of passing traffic.

Jerry thinks that the public may be being “left out” as this occurs but I think that he overlooks the vastly improved and expanded communication services available to the public, including cell phones and the internet. As an example, although there was health and welfare traffic being moved after Hurricane Katrina it was on a much smaller scale than was anticipated due to the alternate means for getting messages out of the affected area..

In any event, he is correct in his assertion that there is much greater emphasis today on providing communications assistance to public agencies. The problem that he accurately identifies is the tendency for hams to show up at events or incidents where no one on the scene has requested their assistance and then the hams “standby” just in case someone might need them. Too many times after the incident they then tout the fact that they had responded to the event while failing to mention that their help was neither requested nor used.

He refers to these episodes as “make work” events where little or nothing is accomplished as opposed to “meaningful work” when the ham radio community has actually been asked to help and provides a real service.

Some hams may respond and say that this is how they maintain a level of preparedness as well as keeping the public aware of the communication services that amateur radio can provide. They may contend that despite all of the advances made in improving public communications services, including site hardening and redundancy, any communication system is still at risk of failure.

Jerry rightfully rejects that notion and explains that the downside to these unwanted responses is that amateur radio loses credibility with the public sector when hams show up in some disorganized fashion at a service site where no one has asked for their help. They may end up milling about with nothing to do thereby reinforcing the perception that ham radio has no role in the relief effort.

As he points out (and as anyone who has taken the recommended FEMA training will know) there will be an Incident Command System in place at the event with defined roles for everyone, including ham radio. The last thing needed is hangers-on who have no role in the response plan.

Unfortunately this becomes all the more likely if there is not a well organized, active and prepared amateur radio emcomm group. The casual approach of “Hey, we have ham radio licenses, if something happens, we’ll show up and help” just doesn’t work. Plans have to be made, services need to be coordinated, staff needs to be trained and an official deployment needs to occur.

Efforts are being made to do this locally through the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (EMA) with the creation and development of its Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) unit.

The EMA is fully committed to making RACES a part of the Incident Command System and the local response plan. As an example, the EMA has purchased new equipment for the amateur radio station at the Emergency Operations Center including an Icom 706 MkIIG, two Yaseu FT-8800's, and LDG Z-11 Pro tuner, and an Astron 30 amp power supply. Also on order and awaiting delivery is an SCS PTCII-USB Pactor III modem and a Kantronics KPC3+ TNC, and a Signalink USB interface will be added. The station will have full digital capability.

The county's emergency response plan is undergoing revision and RACES will be fully incorporated into it. It is an exciting time for all the hams in the area who have an interest in truly being part of the amateur radio service to their community. RACES is also exploring the development of a RACES Auxiliary that will give area hams a means to be registered with RACES for possible service but with reduced operational roles and training requirements.

Please contact me at kc8pd@aol.com if you would like more information.

Jim, KC8PD
RACES Radio Officer

Some Words From Weaver

+++ Another blow to BPL +++

In spite of the unabashed hype the FCC continues to give BPL, the effort to use power lines to connect consumers to the internet just isn't doing very well. The latest example of BPL's frailty as a consumer product is the announcement that the Current Group is selling the system it has been building in Dallas to the Oncor Electric Delivery Company. Oncor emphasized it is not in the entertainment or telecommunications business and that it does not want to get into these. The company will use the system solely to control the distribution of electricity to its customers. Electric power companies have routinely used signals transmitted over their power lines to manage the flow of electricity through distribution systems. Power companies are becoming deeply involved in developing Smart Grids that will enable consumers to become much more efficient in using electricity.



The BPL system that was being built in Dallas had previously been touted as the largest system in the world for delivering broadband to businesses and homes. As we all know, nothing is small in Texas. I suppose this includes failures.

+++ FCC to raise vanity call fee? +++

On May 8, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) designed to increase fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. The Commission proposes to raise the fee to \$12.30. This is a \$.60 increase over the current fee of \$11.70. As is true of regular call sign licenses, vanity call licenses are good for 10 years. Vanity call fees have varied from a high of \$50.00 to the current low of \$11.70.

The FCC expects to receive about 15,000 vanity call applications during the coming fiscal year.

+++ Conducting business via Amateur Radio +++

I recently commented on the acceptability of using Amateur Radio to support commercial activity during certain forms of emergency. Bruce Moyer, KI8GR, reminds me of an additional type of business activity that is legal for hams to practice on a daily basis. This involves using Amateur Radio to purchase personal items.

First, let me point out that the FCC did not change its rule against using ham radio for pecuniary interest. Instead, the Commission clarified what is and what isn't financial interest as regards hamming. Examples of the clarification are two people talking by radio (simplex or by repeater) to order a pizza or to pass along a list of items to be bought on the way home do not represent prohibited activities.

On the other hand, it would not be permissible for a pizza shop to take orders directly off the air with a rig set up in the shop.

Jim, K8JE
Director, Great Lakes Division ARRL

Hamfest Calendar

12 Jul 2008 - NOARSFEST - Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society - Lorain County Fairgrounds - Route 18 - Wellington, OH - Talk-In: 146.70 <http://www.noars.net>

27 Jul 2008 - Portage Hamfair '08 - PARC - Portage County Fairgrounds 4215 Fairgrounds Rd - Randolph, OH - Talk-In: 145.390 <http://www.portagearc.org>

17 Aug 2008 - Warren Amateur Radio Association - Trumbull County Fairgrounds - 899 Evertt Hull Rd - Cortland, OH - Talk-In: 146.970 <http://kc8pvh.com>

28 Sep 2008 - Cleveland Hamfest & Computer Show - Hamfest Assoc. of Cleveland - Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds - 164 Eastland Rd - Berea, OH - <http://www.hac.org> - Talk-In: 146.73 (PL 110.9)

26 Oct 2008 - Hamfest & Auction - Massillon Amateur Radio Club - Massillon Boys and Girls Club - 730 Duncan St SW - Massillon, OH - <http://www.marcradio.org> - Talk-In: 147.78 (PL 110.9)

Women Wireless Operators

From: *Popular Science Monthly*, June, 1917, page 814:

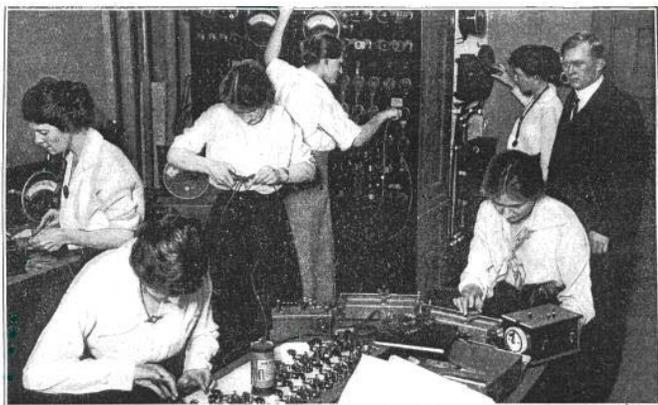
"Preparedness" Includes Women Wireless Operators



The code room of the Girls' Wireless School at Hunter College, New York. The students are instructed and drilled in every branch of wireless work

Photos © Underwood and Underwood

Miss Margaret M. A. Donahue, of Boston, Mass., the very first woman in the United States to receive a first-class license for commercial radio operation



The laboratory at the wireless school at Hunter College. The apparatus and appliances are up-to-the-minute and complete in every detail. The girls have offered their services to the Government

Scientific American

November 25, 1905, page 427

Field Day 08 - Preliminary Info

PCARS Field Day 2008 is in the history books. As this newsletter is being finalized, the results of our efforts are still being counted up. Stay tuned, because next month's newsletter will have more details.



However, the one thing that was perfectly clear is we all had FUN! Weather reports predicted we were going to have terrible weather and our operations would be limited.



But Tom Sly came through again and we were fortunate that all of the bad weather went north or south of us. We only shut down for one brief period when thunder was near our location in the park. A few sprinkles of rain and some small gusty winds is all we had to deal with. Over all mother nature was kind to us this year.



One of the high spots of this year's event was when Jon Barber, the EMA Director brought over the Portage County Emergency Communications van at our Field Day site. The van was open for all to tour. We even had one operating station working inside the van for the entire 24 hours. It was the only bug free and air conditioned area, which really made for comfortable operating conditions.



The dinner this year was fantastic! How many places can you go to, have fun with amateur radio, share in the fun of a team working to make radio contacts and then have a Prime Rib dinner with all the fixings?! WOW, Just fantastic!

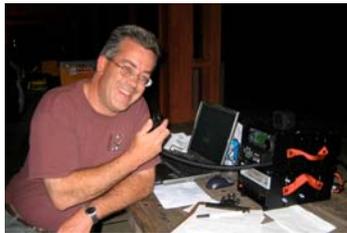
Operations went pretty smooth and it seemed that everyone was making more contacts than last year.

Kevin Poland, the Mayor of Ravenna even managed to stop in and say hello late in the evening. He tried making a contact on the GOTA station, but the band we were using just would not cooperate. He did enjoy



watching the PCARS members making contacts on the other radios.

I was surprised when I downloaded all the picture that I took and realized I had snapped over 210 pictures! Jim, KC8PD said he has just under 100 pictures, and others were taking pictures as well. Please get those pictures to me as soon as possible so I can put them all on CD's for everyone.



Mayor Kevin Poland

While you are thinking about it, please write down something about your Field Day experience and send it in to me. I'll put those comments in next month's newsletter!!

Tom, KB8UUZ

Eyeball to Eyeball - KD8FLZ

This month's "Eye to Eye" is with Mike DiCarro, KD8FLZ. Mike was born in Cleveland and raised in the Newbury and Auburn communities of Portage County. He spent some of his childhood on his grandparent's farm where he learned to tinker with things. He also spent some time in Hiram and even in Geauga County where he graduated from Middlefield High School.



Mike - KD8FLZ

He went back to Newbury after graduation to attend Newbury Vocational Trade School and learned the basics for what would be his life's work – Tool & Die Maker. He has been plying this trade for about 30 years now and most of it has been with the Chrysler Corp. in Twinsburg, OH, where he started in 1982.

He still looks upon himself as a tool & die maker even though he now works third shift as the Health & Safety Rep. He told me that this new position often includes more than health or safety issues, but he enjoys the work. He would like to get a few more years in so that he can retire from Chrysler with a full pension. That would be pretty special in this day and age, considering how some companies treat their employees.

Before we get to his involvement in Amateur Radio, I

want to mention a couple of Mike's other hobbies. He says that he hasn't been hunting for years but he still enjoys target shooting. You really need steady hands and a good eye to be successful at this hobby. When you talk with Mike, you can understand why he enjoys this hobby. He looks you straight in the eye to talk to you and you realize that you have his entire attention. When you target shoot, you need to focus and this is something that Mike is able to do.

His other hobby is RC airplane flying. Like so many others that are members of PCARS, Mike enjoys flying RC planes. I'm not sure what it is about that hobby that somehow lures people into Amateur Radio, but I'm glad that Mike took the bait. He flies with Dan Porcase, KD8EPA and Mike Ryan, KB8TUY.

When I asked him about HAM radio, he said that he had always had an interest in emergency communications and that is why he has been so active in RACES. He doesn't get on the air that much other than 2 meters but says that he will try to change that in the future.

2001 was the year that seemed to be the starting point for Mike to really get involved in Amateur Radio. Mike said that Mike Ryan can take some credit in getting him involved in HAM Radio. Mike D. bought an ICOM 2720, dual band rig, after Mike Ryan took him to AES in Cleveland. He put up a Cushcraft vertical antenna and listened for some time since that was all he was able to do, not being licensed. Then PCARS started the Technician classes and Mike took the class and passed. He has since upgraded to General this year. Mike's other rigs are an ICOM 7000 and a Cushcraft MA6V for the HF bands. He also has a Yaesu VX-6 HT, which he uses for his mobile work.

Mike says that he wants to get into HF more as well as digital work, but time is the constraint for now. Maybe some of us can talk to Mike about the DX that can be worked in the AM, since he hits the hay about 2 PM in order to work third shift.

Please greet Mike when you see him at the PCARS meetings. As you can see from this E2E and others that have been part of the column over the months, we are a pretty diverse and interesting group of people. Don't miss the chance to meet Mike and the others and share your interests with them.

Chuck, K8CMP

ARRL June VHF Party

Today, June 19th my July issue of QST arrived. The results of the 2007 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes are on pages 84 through 86. If you look at the Affiliated Club Competition you will find that the "Portage County Amateur Radio Service" is listed under the Local Clubs. We had three members enter and they have already submitted their logs for the 2008 ARRL June VHF Party.

If you participated, in the June VHF Party, and I know some of you did since I worked you; get those entries in. If you were not a serious participant and do not have a logging program, you can still submit your log by using the web-based applet at: <http://b4h.net/cabform>. You need to have your log in by 0300 UTC July 15, 2008. If you need some help, please contact me and I will assist you in getting your log submitted. In addition, please let me know that you are submitting your log since I have to advise the ARRL of our category. Again, thanks for participating and we will do better than January!

Joe, W8KNO
PCARS Contest Scorekeeper

Ham License Plates Wanted

One of the suggestions we came up with was to have a wall of ham license plates in the club station. So, dig out an old amateur radio call sign license plate (with your present call sign), clean it up and bring it in to be permanently affixed to the wall in the club station. We have a few more that came in, but we can use more!



Don't have ham radio call plates on your vehicle? Well for those of you in Ohio, you can get the plates sent to you by going to any License Bureau office and filling out the special plate registration form. It costs you about \$19 the first time for the bureau fee, mailing fee, and Amateur Radio plate fee. In about 2 weeks or so, the plates come in the mail. When your Amateur Radio plates need to be re-newed, you can (for about a \$7 fee) get NEW plates issued (same call sign). Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a permanent part of PCARS history!!

The official form for obtaining your Amateur Radio license plates here in Ohio is on the PCARS Yahoo site.

Tom, KB8UJZ

PCARS VE Test Sessions

PCARS VE sessions are scheduled for the first Saturday of every other even numbered month.

Coming Up:

August 2, Oct. 4, Dec. 6

VE sessions for Technician, General & Amateur Extra start at 10 am at the Center of Hope: 1034 West Main St. in Ravenna. Walk-ins are always welcome.



Please bring your original license, a copy of your license, your FRN number if you are already licensed or registered with the FCC (or your SSN number if you're not registered), your original CSCE, a copy of your CSCE, a photo ID, and a check for \$14.00 made out to "ARRL-VEC". We look forward to seeing you there!!!!

Jim, KC8PD
PCARS VE Coordinator

PCARS Picnic 2008

The 2008 edition of the PCARS Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 26th. Once again it will be hosted at the Black Squirrel Oasis aka QTH of Tom, WB8LCD and Mary Sly. We will start at 5:00 PM, plan to eat about 6:30, and about 1:00 AM I'll be quoting that famous line from The Blues Brothers – "You don't have to go home, but you can't stay here!"

PCARS will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, buns and fixens, as well as soft drinks. We ask that you bring the all other stuff that will make it a feast – side dishes, desserts, beer, chips, salads, etc... If you'll let me know ahead of time what you would be bringing, I can gauge what we'll have and what we'll need and make sure nothing is lacking!

As usual, we'll have some sort of goofyness, but the main goal is just to kick back with families and friends and kinda take the night off! So, make sure you get it on the calendar, more info to follow.

Tom, WB8LCD

Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics & activities are:

- July 14th meeting – **To be announced**
- July 26th – **PCARS Picnic** at the **Black Squirrel Oasis**, aka **WB8LCD's QTH**

- August 9th - **PCARS Portage County 2 Meter Sprint**
- August 11th meeting – **Geoff Howard W0CG - PJ2T**
Caribbean Contest Consortium - Curacao, Netherlands Antilles
- August 23rd – **Ohio QSO Party**
- September 6th – **Ohio State Parks On The Air**
- September 8th meeting – **Jon Barber, EMA Director with the EMA Mobile Command Center, Jim, KC8PD, RACES update**
- September 12th – date tentative – **Black Squirrel Festival**
- October 13th meeting – **Rod Ehrhart, WN8R (DX Engineering), Vertical Antennas and Radial Systems**
- October 18th – **Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)** station (very tentative)
- November 10th – **Bill, WB9LBI, CW Tips and Techniques, Equipment and Software**
- November 22nd – **Two Meter Antenna Kits**
- December – TBS – **Christmas Party**
- January – TBS – **QRP Kit project**

**** **PROGRAM UPDATE** ****

With regrets, Tim Duffy, K3LR, has asked if we can reschedule his presentation on the K3LR Contest Station which had been scheduled for July 14th. This past winter Tim took a new top management job with AT&T that has, understandably, placed significant demands on his schedule. You may know that Tim's station is in Northwest Pennsylvania, but that is not his home base. He now lives in Oklahoma City, his office is in Atlanta, and he has job responsibilities around the country.

As Chuck, K8CMP, and Ed, N8EQJ, can tell you from their experience attending the Contest University at the Dayton Hamvention, Tim is an outstanding representative of the amateur radio community who is incredibly generous with his time and energy that he gives back to the hobby.

Tim will keep us advised of any openings that come up in his schedule in the near future and we will work with him to get him back on the PCARS calendar.

Public Service Events

- Sunday- July 27 - Bicentennial Duathlon at Portage Metroparks
- Sunday - August 24 - Bellefaire JCB Biathlon

Bicentennial Duathlon new this year for the Portage County Bicentennial. T shirts provided.

Bellefaire JCB Biathlon A fun event that goes through 5 jurisdictions along Shaker Blvd. Again, good T shirts and food.

For those of you who are new to public service a BIATHLON is a run & bike event; a DUATHLON is a run, bike, run event. Also, there are places for you to work even if you have not worked an event before. If you need to leave early your schedule can be accommodated.

Thanks to those PCARS members who came out to provide communications for the Cleveland Marathon. You helped make the run safer for the 10,400 entrants! Howard, the official we work with, wrote, " All I can say is great show. Things went very smooth and you were a big help. Even the doctor was happy! Thanks to you and everyone."

Public service events are a good way to practice our communication skills, as well as have fun and serve the public.

The June 7 Nordonia Hills Duathlon is an easy, fun event and a good one for those new to working these events. Hope to see you there!

If you can help please call:
Gay Wands
330 474-1573
gwands@neo.rr.com

Gay, WB8VNO

PCARS Patches & Stickers

PCARS logo patches & stickers are now available!! Put the patch on your hat, your shirt, your jacket!!



The patch is approximately 3". The embroidery is in Red, Black and Blue. Cost for a patch is \$2.00 each and can be obtained at any PCARS meeting.

There are 2 types of stickers available.



A 4"x6" oval and a 3" x 10" bumper sticker. Stickers are \$1 each. Show your pride in PCARS - Wear a patch, use the stickers! If you would like to order by mail contact: kb8uuz@portcars.org

Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: ICOM 775 10-160 meters, 200 Watts includes HM-36 mic, Rack Mount Handles, two SP-20 Speakers with Audio Filter - all for \$2500.00 - Contact **Ted - KC8SYD** at home 330-947-3530 or cell 330-760-2726.

FOR SALE: Yaesu FT-920 - 10-160 + 6 meters - 100 Watts, includes hand mic. \$800.00 - Contact **Ted - KC8SYD** at home 330-947-3530 or cell 330-760-2726.

FOR SALE - YAESU FT-90R - Micro Mobile - 2m/440 Dual Band - Detachable Front Panel - Asking: \$250 OBO - Contact **Mike - KC8LJY** at 330-673-1035

WANTED: Would like to buy a good used phone patch. Contact: Carl - N4IT@portcars.org

FOR SALE: Want to work mobile?? I have come across a supply of "new - old stock" items from the now defunct Antenna Specialists, formerly of Solon, OH. You can get a heavy duty ball mount, with stainless spring and 96" stainless whip, all for just \$30.00. Let me know how many you want. **Tom - WB8LCD@portcars.org**

FOR SALE: Tripp Lite Power Supply - PR40 \$100 - **Mirage B-1016 2 Meter Amp** - 10w in, 160w out \$175.00 - **Mirage B-5018G 2 Meter Amp** - 20-60w in, 160w out \$200.00 - **Mirage B-2530G 2 Meter Amp** 10w in, 300w out \$475.00 - Three HR2510 10m AM/FM/SSB/CW \$150.00 each - Contact **Ted - KC8SYD** at home 330-947-3530 or cell 330-760-2726.

WANTED: Cheap 2 meter radio to use for packet. Does not need to be pretty! Just dependable and did I say cheap?? Let me know what you've got that you want to get rid of. Contact **Tom - WB8LCD@portcars.org**

FOR SALE: Yaesu-FT-60R NEW (bought in March-used very little) (2 meter/440) rig. Has manual and handy Nifty Accessories pocket manual. Regularly sells for \$189.95 plus shipping. Will sell for \$169.95. Ten months of warranty left on it. Contact **Carl N4IT** at ccapps2439@yahoo.com or 330-673-2764

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in July:

K8CMP	Chuck Patellis
N8FTP	Larry Cole
KB8JFF	Dick Ward
N4PKW	Rod Thompson
WB9LBI	Bill Fraedrich
N8JLC	Ray Hyer
AB8IE	Ken Westover
KD8EPA	Dan Porcase

PCARS Yahoo Site

Members are reminded that PCARS has a Yahoo Site dedicated to PCARS information. It's a great site to sign up for and get on the mailing list. Check out the PCARS web site at <http://www.portcars.org> and follow the link to sign up.



PCARS Meetings

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) meetings are held the second Monday of each month at:



located in the **Brimfield Plaza** - just South of Interstate 76 off Route 43 in **Brimfield, OH**.



PCARS meeting - 7:00 pm
Second Monday of Every Month

PCARS Thursday Net Control

Net Control Schedule

July	
3	K8CMP - Chuck
10	KB8DPN - Russ
17	WB8LCD - Tom
24	KB8UUZ - Tom
31	K8QF - Russ



Tom, WB8LCD
PCARS Net Control Coordinator



Pictures from the June Meeting



Some Pictures from Field Day



In the name and by the Authority of
THE STATE OF OHIO



Ted Strickland
 Governor of said State
 hereby officially recognizes

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS' APPRECIATION DAY in OHIO

Amateur radio operators play a vital role in emergency communications preparedness plans for the nation, state and local government agencies; and

Ohio has more than twenty-eight thousand (28,000) licensed amateur radio operators many of whom have provided valuable public assistance through emergency radio communications on a local, statewide, national and international basis in times of need, and

Amateur radio operators donate their equipment, time and expertise in providing public service and emergency communications free of charge, and

June 28 2008 has been designated as amateur radio Field Day for emergency communications preparedness exercises,

THEREFORE, I, TED STRICKLAND, Governor of Ohio, recognize **June 28, 2008** as **AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS' APPRECIATION DAY** in Ohio in recognition of the importance of the amateur radio operators' role in preparing for public service and emergency communications and this important emergency preparedness service.

ON THIS 28th DAY OF JUNE,
 TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHT.

Ted Strickland
 Ted Strickland
 Governor



PORTAGE COUNTY

Field Day provides practice for local radio operators

Thousands of ham radio operators will be demonstrating their emergency communication capabilities the weekend of June 28 and 29. In the Portage County area, the Portage County Amateur Radio Service Inc. will again be operating its amateur radio station at the Cunningham Shelter in John Tontimonia City Park in Ravenna.

The event will run from 2 p.m. on Saturday until 2 p.m. on Sunday. The public may attend to see ham radio in action and learn how to get their own FCC radio license.

The upcoming event, known as Field Day, provides a chance for the public to meet and talk with ham radio operators and learn about the Amateur Radio Service. Hams around the country will be demonstrating the newest digital and satellite capabilities, voice communications and even Morse Code.

They will set up emergency stations in parks, shop-

ping malls, schools and other public locations around the country. They will show how they can still send messages in many forms even when phone systems, the Internet and other communication services are disrupted during a disaster or emergency.

"We invite everyone in the Portage County area to stop by and see how the amateur radio operators in your community are preparing to assist if disaster strikes," said Tom Sly, president of PCARS. Sly's amateur radio call sign is WB8LCD.

"We will even have a station operating that will provide visitors a chance to get on the air. This is particularly helpful for Scouts who are working on a communications merit badge," said Sly, a former Eagle Scout.

For more information, contact Sly at 330-626-1901, send e-mail to wb8lcd@portcars.org or go to the PCARS Web site, www.portcars.org.



Scout-a-rama Pictures



Thanks & 73

This is the seventh issue of the PCARS official newsletter the 'RADIOGRAM' for 2008.

I really appreciate your help in getting material for this newsletter. All of our members look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! Thanks goes out to this months contributors: **WB8LCD, KC8PD, K8CMP, WB9LBI, KB8UUZ, W8KNO, K8JE**, the **ARRL**, and the **World Wide Web**.

With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.

NOTICE

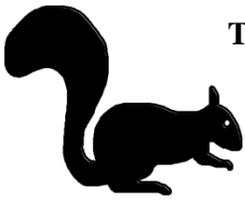


Radio frequency fields beyond this point may exceed the FCC general public exposure limit.

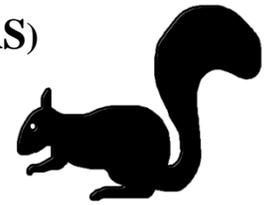
Obey all posted signs and site guidelines for working in radio frequency environments.

In accordance with Federal Communications Commission rules on radio frequency emissions 47 CFR 1.1307(b) © 1998 Richard M. Associates, Inc.

Tom - KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor



The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)



Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at **Sideliners**
in the Brimfield Plaza, Brimfield, OH - Off Route 43 Just South of Interstate 76

All are welcome to attend – Drop in and say hello!

"When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Works"

PCARS Uses the N8EQJ Repeater: 146.895 MHz (PL 110.9 – Rootstown, Ohio PL 114.8 – Kent, Ohio)

Repeater is graciously provided by N8EQJ for use by PCARS members



PCARS Appointments & Committees 2008

Awards	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Club Call Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Club Site Coordinator	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Contest Coordinators	W8KNO K8CMP	Joe Wehner Chuck Patellis
Field Day 2008	WB9LBI N8EQJ	Bill Fraedrich Ed Polack
Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
KD8CKP QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Net Coordinator	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Newsletter	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
PIO	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Secretary	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Repeater	WB9LBI	Bill Fraedrich
 VE Team	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.
	N4IT	Carl Capps
	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	N8XTH	Deron Boring
	N8PXW	Jim Korenz
	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
	K8CMP	Chuck Patellis
	N8EQJ	Ed Polack
K8QF	Russ Conklin	
K8GI	Rick Patterson	
Web Master	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.

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ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service®) is a program of, and both logos are registered trademarks (used with permission) of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. **Why the Black Squirrel in our logo?** For those of you not familiar with it: the Black Squirrel is commonly seen around Portage County, Ohio. Seems that some of these little guys & gals got loose from Kent State University back in 1961 and have migrated and thrived throughout our county. Kent State University even has an annual Black Squirrel Festival. So when you spot a black squirrel – **think PCARS!**

This is the **Electronic E-Mail** version of the **PCARS Newsletter, the RADIOGRAM**. The advantages to receiving this way are: You get **COLOR** pictures, **NO** postage needed, and delivered right to **YOUR** e-mail box! If you know of anyone else that would like to receive this newsletter, please **have them send me an e-mail**. The RADIOGRAM is published every month and is sent only to subscribers. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, we understand. We'll try not to take it personally. It's not you saying you don't like us, but maybe you just don't have the time to look at all this hard work we've done just for you. Hey, that's cool. But if your heart is truly set on making sure you no longer receive this newsletter, even though we promise to one day reveal the meaning of life in it and you're going to be really upset when you miss out on that. To remove your self from the mail list – send an e-mail to me at: kb8uuz @ portcars.org

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)
Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ - Newsletter Editor
9992 State Route 700
Mantua, OH 44255



NLC